

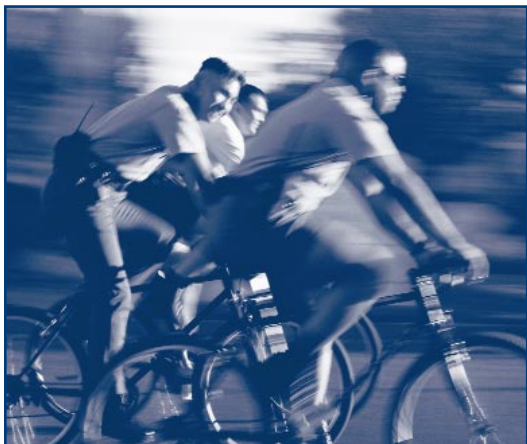


# COPS in Action

Community Oriented Policing Services

[www.usdoj.gov/cops/](http://www.usdoj.gov/cops/)

## Long Beach, California



The Long Beach Police Department is committed to community policing and has taken advantage of many COPS grant programs to further their efforts. They have received \$9.4 million to hire or redeploy 273 officers.

The neighborhoods served by the West Community Policing Division in Long Beach, California, are generally peaceful. But in one westside neighborhood, a handful of people were significantly disrupting the lives of their neighbors. A few juveniles were wreaking havoc in the neighborhood, burglarizing people's homes, stealing items from yards and garages, and doing drugs in the alley. The youth were so sure there would be no repercussions, they would sell the stolen property at garage sales in the very same neighborhood. Additionally, a house of recent parolees was creating neighborhood disturbances and allowing their property to become littered and overgrown. The members of this neighborhood teamed up with officers from the West Community Policing Division to take action and take back their neighborhood.

Community members and the police formed a neighborhood association and called a meeting to address the recent problems. Community leaders circulated flyers door to door encouraging

**"Police and community members joined forces to take back that neighborhood. Our efforts were visible and sent a strong message of who really owned the street — the good guys."**

Corporal Marcia Rhone, Long Beach Police Department

everyone affected to attend. Residents strategized with each other, burglary detectives, and community policing officers on appropriate action. They decided to embark on a mission to clean up the neighborhood by removing trash and debris from the alley where the juveniles hung out, sending a message of ownership of their neighborhood, and offering the juveniles job training and placement services. Residents left the meeting with improved crime prevention techniques and plan to stop crime in their neighborhood.

On a designated weekend, neighborhood residents and police officers joined together to clean up the alley. The police parked their police trailer in front of the juveniles' home and made it known that they were there to reclaim the alley and stop the pattern of thefts. They visited the parolees and asked them to participate by cleaning up their property to avoid citations from Code Enforcement for housing violations. The officers brought the juveniles and their mother information on a job training and placement program that would provide their services and housing at no cost.

Their efforts have been effective. The juveniles still live in the area, but they no longer terrorize the neighborhood. The parolees cleaned up and now maintain their property. Residents say the neighborhood is better than it has ever been. They continue their monthly neighborhood association meetings and now have the resources to stop crime before it disrupts the entire community.

Contact: Corporal Marcia Rhone, 562-570-3409